

Christmas Shoppers

We are displaying a beautiful line of Christmas goods.

Hand Painted China

Plates, Vases, Cups, Saucers, Hair Receivers, etc. See window display.

Prices from 50c to \$6.00

Fancy Handkerchiefs, Silk Scarfs, Leather Goods in great variety.

C. L. DELAVAN

Both Phones Free Delivery

Alma Pressing Club

Two Shops

Pressing Department 303 State Street
Dyeing and Cleaning Dept. 319 State Street

EVERYONE wishing to join the Alma Pressing Club must signify their intentions before December 10, or the club will be discontinued. Membership must be at least fifty.

M. I. MILLLS, Prop.

ALMA HIGH SCHOOL.

German Department.

At present the study of German has a place in high school far different from what it had 15 or 20 years ago. At that time there were no definite methods of teaching, no clear cut aims and consequently no real values. It lacked a scientific basis. Today, however, this modern language is looked upon as something vital, something necessary for real success in life.

A two-year course is offered in high school at present. The first year is given up largely to a thorough study of grammar and easy reading, particular stress being placed on correct pronunciation. After the student has acquired the ability to use the German script, translation of English sentences into German is begun, thus the student is given an opportunity to apply his grammar and to learn to think in German. In class, every sentence is put on the board, discussed and corrected. Each student has a notebook containing all sentences in the corrected form.

Since German is an inflected language, a good share of the time is devoted to declensions of nouns, pronouns and adjectives as well as to conjugation of verbs. The vocabulary is large and the word order is difficult. For that reason the student is given a large number of practical idioms for the purpose of clearing up grammatical difficulties as well as for the purpose of building up his vocabulary. Before the close of the first year, a number of short stories and easy poems are read. Conversation is also introduced at this time to inspire the student and to stimulate his interest in this field.

The second year course is conducted almost entirely in German. It consists of a large amount of varied reading such as "Märchen und Erzählungen," "Im Vaterland," "Gemeinschaft," "Immersee," "Der Zerbrochene Krug," "L'Arabiata," "Die Hochzeitsreise," and the like. Nearly every lesson is followed by a careful German interpretation thus giving the pupil a chance to react and to develop what is known as a "Sprachgefühl" for the language itself. In connection with this work, each student is required to bring a newspaper article or a similar item of interest to class four times a week and express it in German. This, together with brief German talks given to the class, tends to bring a German atmosphere into the class room.

The aim in studying this modern language is to be able to speak it. This aim, however, cannot be completely attained in a two-year course where the student is given only three hundred and fifty hours of actual class work to say nothing of the over-crowded classes. But if the student follows up this work in college or university, he will soon realize that his time has been well invested and the ability to understand and to express his thoughts and ideas in this language will eventually come to him.

The study of German has practical values. If the student is interested in engineering, medicine, teaching, international law and similar professions, he must know German. The business man with the knowledge of a foreign language can approach more people than the person who speaks no language only. The Germans are a scientific people. Any invention or discovery on their part is published in German before it is published in any other language. The bread and butter value reveals itself in traveling, here as well as abroad.

No doubt, the student derives a cultural value in studying German literature. He has an opportunity to familiarize himself with the ideas and ideals of the poet so that he may interpret the real values of life more intelligently. For this reason he can approach the world with tested ideals. He has a sound hold on the duties of life.

SHELTERS FOR BIRDS.

Excellent Feeding Station and Shelter May Be Seen at Steve Bennett's Store.

Feeding the birds in winter is one of the most common ways of relieving the dullness of days. One can scarcely begin to realize the genuine appreciation that the little fluffy bunches of bird life must feel when they see a generous supply of food put in their way. These first cold days suggest that soon the birds will enter on their period of privation. The question has been asked, how may winter feeding be done to secure the maximum of good to the birds and pleasure to the observer? The essential thing is to have a daily ration, one ready for every day when the birds are on the look-out for something to eat. If they find food in accessible places, they will return as regularly as their need presses them. The food must be ready for them when they want it. It is not always possible to scatter food on the ground and keep a supply ready. A small platform on a post presents some of the same difficulties, though not so many. Possibly this is a good way to begin to train the birds that come so that they will get the habit, and not be afraid to use such food shelters as may next be provided. Food shelters should be placed and usually are placed in a position where they can be watched conveniently.

The birds have to learn the way of getting into the shelter and it is frequently necessary to give them a preliminary training in forming the habit of finding and taking food in an enclosed shelter. This can be done by placing bits of food such as suet, cracked nuts, and grain, in conspicuous places at first and then gradually

transferring these into the shelter, by moving them a little every day toward the goal. In some cases this is soon done, or even they may be left to find the way to the food themselves. The food shelters may be tacked to a tree or nailed to a post in a convenient place.

The food shelter itself may be a very simple affair. There are a number of designs, any one of which is simple. They may be made ever so elaborate, and not serve their purpose any better. The food supply must be protected from the rain, snow and wind, and from animals. This means a roof, sides, which may be in part of glass if one likes, with openings in on side at least, and bottom open. The food supply can be placed in suitable holders, ledges, hooks, or frames, according to requirements. The shelter may not be open at the side but only at the bottom. When this is the case, there is often provided a rest at a short distance below the shelter for the convenience of the visitors.

A weather vane food box is another frequently used design for a food shelter. Then, one may go even further and have a window seat food shelter, such as described and illustrated by Mr. Harold Baynes in his lecture in Alma last spring. Indeed, if one wishes and can give the matter more thought and time, there is scarcely a limit to devising means for attracting the birds even in winter to one's door.

If the members of the Alma Bird Club do as much in this as they did in the matter of housing the birds for their nesting season, there should no birds suffer during the coming winter. Nor is all the work in these matters done by the members of the Bird Club, as was shown in the recent canvass.

It is also suggested that an effort be made to keep a record of the different kinds of birds that come to your food shelters or places for feeding. If comers are slow, all that is necessary is to wait. The winters are long and while the winter birds are not very numerous, there are enough to go around and to eat up the food you may place in their reach. Try it.

A good example of one type of food shelter or box can be seen at Steve

Bennett's store. He will be glad to show it to any one who may want to see it, and to explain its use and advantages. It may be possible to see other types of food shelters which will be made later.

Those who have their food shelters out soon will be likely to have more bird visitors as the birds become accustomed to them as the winter advances.

—H. M. M.

SEVILLE AND SUMNER FARMERS' CLUB

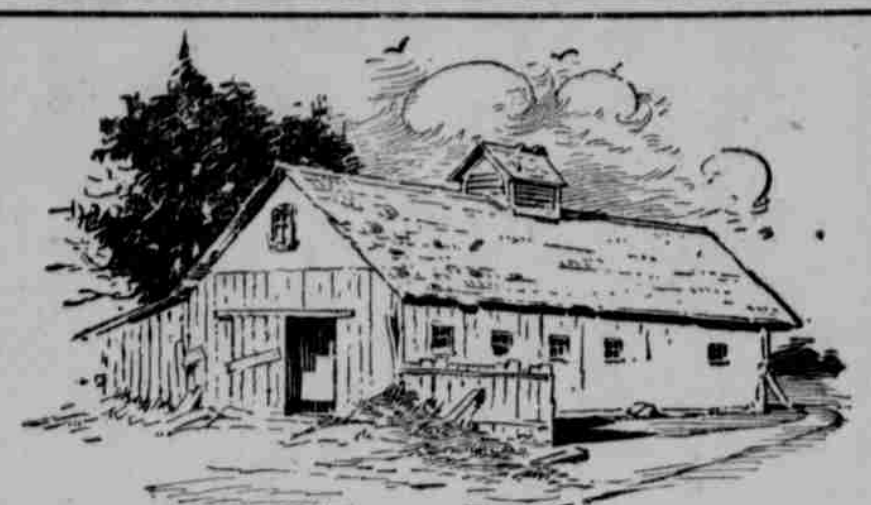
Meet at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Ferris Dec. 10th, 1914.
Following is the program:
Called to order by the president.
Song—Club.
Reading of minutes of last meeting.
Dinner.
Song—Club.
Unfinished business.
New business.
Reading—Mrs. Harriman.
Song—Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Baker.
Report of the delegate.
Election of officers for 1915.
Question box.
Song—Club.
Adjournment.

SCHOOL REPORT.

District No. 8 frl. Sumner, for the month ending Nov. 27, 1914:
Number of days taught, 20.
Grand total days' attendance, 355 1/2.
Number of pupils enrolled, 19.
Pupils not absent, Gertrude Horton, Valeria Ball, Nettie Enterline, Doris Pardee, Addie Bigelow, Ruth Miller, Howard Horton.
Students receiving a three months' certificate for being neither absent or tardy are Doris Pardee, Valeria Ball and Nettie Enterline.

Those receiving not less than 90% in all subjects for the month are Gertrude Horton, grade No. 8; Emeline McFaul, Grade No. 6, and Ruth Miller, Grade 1.

All persons interested in school work are cordially invited to visit us.
LOLA McCARTY, Teacher.



Your Buildings Need Repair Too.

They may not be so bad as this barn, and you don't want them to be either.

Out in Iowa there two barns in a certain county. They are across from each other.

About 40 years ago the two barns were put up. They cost about the same. This summer one was torn down and rebuilt at a cost of \$1000.

The other is still good and is likely to last for at least 10 years more if not longer.

What's the difference? Just this, the one that had to be rebuilt, had not been kept up, no repairs had been made for years.

The other had had repair work done year by year at a total cost of about \$500 in the 40 years.

You get the idea—repair work pays. See us for repair material for your buildings this fall.

We're not satisfied unless you are.

Home Lumber & Fuel Co.

Alma, Michigan

A Test for Liver Complaint.

Mentally Unhappy—Physically Dull
The Liver, sluggish and inactive, first shows itself in a mental state—unhappy and critical. Never is there joy in living, as when the Stomach and Liver are doing their work. Keep your Liver active and healthy by using Dr. King's New Life Pills; they empty the Bowels freely, tone up your Stomach, cure your Constipation and purify the Blood. 25c at Druggists. Bucklen's Arnica Salve excellent for Piles.

Christmas Footwear

The wise man or woman will not wait until the last minute before he takes time to look around to see what he can find in the way of presents suitable for remembrance for the coming holiday trade. We have taken special pains to give you the largest assortment and most up-to-the-minute styles in shoes and slippers. We are sure we can please you.

Mr.
Farmer

Don't
forget
our
Corn
Show
Closes
Dec. 12.
Bring
in
your
Corn

For Ladies

Beautiful new styles in shoes and party pumps in satins, patents, dull leathers, and suedes.

Priced at from \$2.50 to \$5.00

Fur trimmed slippers in all colors, also Indian moccasins. Just the thing for a nice gift
Priced at \$1.00 to \$2.00

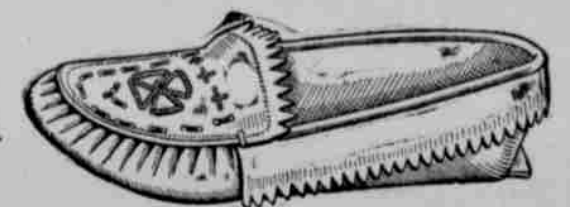


Fits the Arch

For Boys and Girls

High top shoes for the boys, in both black and tan

Priced at \$1.75 \$3.50



High top button boots for the girls
Priced at \$1.00 to \$3.00

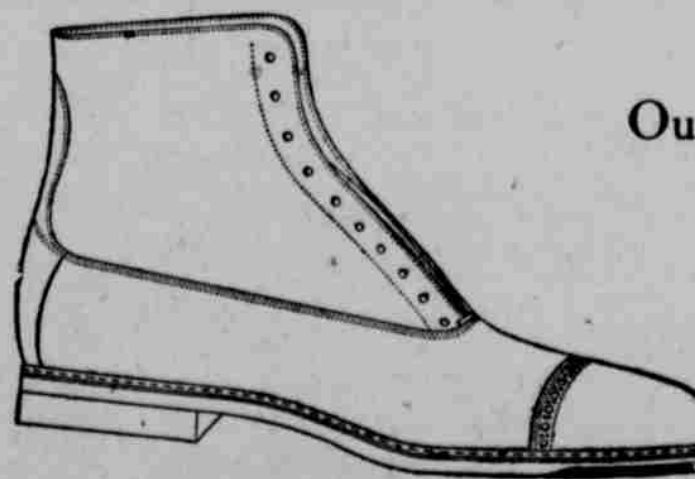
And a full line of slippers in leather or felt. Priced at 50c to \$1.50

For Men

Our Famous Bostonian Shoes (Nuff sed)
Priced at \$3.50 to \$6.00

And the swellest and largest line of house slippers in Gratiot county.

Priced at 50c to \$2.00



We invite you to shop early and with us.

Economy Shoe Store

The Home of Good Shoes
Alma, Mich.



There is a
Certain Class
of Trade

which we are practically certain of. There are certain people who demand the best that the market affords and the majority of these people have learned that, when it comes to jewelry this store takes the lead over all competition. You might as well be in this same class. There is no reason why you should continue to pay as high or higher prices for inferior goods and to miss the service we give.

Prices within reason, service that you will appreciate.

J. E. Converse
Jeweler and Optometrist

Longer Life To Shoes



"Oil Paste" Polish
For all kinds of Black Shoes
Blacks, Polishes, Preserves
also Russet "Oil Paste"
Same size box, each 10c.
Ask Your Dealer for

Whittemore's
Shoe Polishes



There is a Difference in Polishes

Thanksgiving a Dual Holiday.
Thanksgiving is the one holiday that combines religion and patriotism. We should try to impress on the child each Thanksgiving both a feeling of thankfulness for his own blessings and a feeling of high patriotic pride.

YOUR BIRTHSTONE.

There is an old superstition which asserts that each month has its particular stone, to wear which is lucky for those born in that month.

These are the different stones that are dedicated to the different months, with their respective meanings:

January.—The garnet, symbol of fidelity.

February.—The amethyst, which stands for generosity.

March.—The bloodstone, emblem of faith.

April.—The diamond, which signifies loyalty.

May.—The emerald, the token of health and vigor.

June.—The agate, another symbol of love.

July.—The ruby, the jewel of courage.

August.—The moonstone, a sign of fate.

September.—The sapphire, the stone of truth.

October.—The opal, which means change.

November.—The topaz, token of prosperity.

December.—The turquoise, the jewel of friendship.

The stone of one's birth month is always much in request for engagement rings and gifts.

A LETTER FROM SANTA CLAUS.

To the Editor of This Paper:
Sir—Won't somebody please stop the rumor that is fast gaining ground? Not only grown-ups, but nearly every boy and girl, on being questioned will promptly say, with a nice little shake of the head, "There is no Santa Claus." Now, this is pretty hard on a fellow who has been "on the job" hundreds of years.

I am going to ask a favor of my still faithful followers, wherever they may be, hoping that some time I will be able to serve them once more. This is what they are to do: Send one present, say, to some one without having their names appear. Imagine the surprise and delight and guesses as to who might have sent it. The receiver may exclaim, "It must have come from Santa," or, more probably, he or she will radiate smiles to every one, seeing in each friend and relative a possible sender. This will warm the heart of SANTA CLAUS.
The North Pole, December, 1914.

The Birds' Yuletide Gift.

The Christmas feeding of the birds is prevalent in many of the provinces of Norway and Sweden. Bunches of oats are placed on the roofs of houses, on trees and fences, for them to feed upon. Every poor man and every head of a family saves a penny or two to buy a bunch of oats for the birds to have their Christmas. It is a beautiful custom and one that might well be adopted in other countries.